



What makes love last?



Helen Chen built a name for herself by building happy marriages in Asia's toughest market: Taiwan.

Inspired by her book, *Matchmaker of the Century*, director Wu Wuna followed Chen to record her daring and unorthodox approaches to cultivating love.

Let's Fall in Love, the resulting film, is a self-help manual loaded with humor.

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Resident go solar

With solar technology exports being blocked, the government has decided to approve private domestic use of the panels.

Founder of Jiayuan leaves for Web ed

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Russian delegation wraps up cultural events

By Liu Xiaochen

A cultural delegation from St. Petersburg has been hosting cultural events at the Russian Cultural Center of Beijing since last Sunday.

The activities, which include language and culture programs, science lectures, college promotions and a conference on Sino-Russian tourism, end tonight.

Consisting of representatives of the city's cultural and business fields, the delegation is in town for the third time after participating at the International Cultural Festival in Chaoyang District earlier this month.

"Our cultural center has offered more than 600 activities, such as exhibitions and concerts," said Yuri Metelev, the counselor of Embassy of Russia and the head of Russian Cultural Center in Beijing.

2013 has been designated the Year of Russian and Chinese Tourism, and more events can be expected to further develop the Sino-Russian relationship, Metelev said.

Irina Usenko, head of the Pamela Foundation, which organized the delegation, introduced its experts at the opening ceremony.

"The delegation's mission is to promote Sino-Russian cultural exchange



Yuri Metelev speaks at the opening ceremony.

Photos provided by Russia Cultural Center



The events drew many people curious about Russian culture.

and the humanities of St. Petersburg," Usenko said. "Russian style comes from its history and culture. In order to better understand Russian, we have invited experts from various fields to share what they know."

The weeks events also

included a painting exhibition and Russian ballet.

Andrei Palgunov, a spokesman for the Foreign Affairs Committee of the St. Petersburg, said the strong relationship between China and Russia is evidence of the positive efforts of both countries' leaders.

French Festival begins next month

法语活动节
fête de
la francophonie

By Liu Xiaochen

French-speaking countries will be sharing their culture in March during the 18th French Festival in China.

Several cities across the country will joining the annual celebration and presenting hundreds of events for free to the public.

First proposed by the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (OIF), the French Festival cooperate with local associations and institutions to bring French culture to Chinese

audiences.

The festival focuses on film, music and literature and includes movie screenings, concerts, lectures, exhibitions, recitals and competitions.

All events are free to the public, and the film screenings and exhibitions will include Chinese translations.

Music

The sixth "Mars en Folie" music tour will be held from March 6 to 23 with performed by Les Mauvaises

Langues, Klo Pelgag, Benjamin Schoos, Sophie Galet and Junior Tshaka.

They will have a music tour in China's 13 cities including Beijing, Tianjing, Qingdao, Jinan, Xi'an, Guiyang, Wuhan, Chengdu, Chongqing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macau, bringing pop, rock' n' roll and reggae music to colleges and music halls.

The more than 40 music performances are free to the public.

The other musical activities include a French song competition. The Beijing division's final contest will be March 23 at the Instituto Cervantes in Beijing.

The events are being organized by the French Alliance of China, the Embassy of

Canada and Quebec Office, the Embassy of Switzerland and the Embassy of Belgium.

Movie

Feature films and shorts from more than 20 French-speaking countries will be screened from March 4 to 31 at the embassies of Poland and Romania, the French Alliance, the Indian Cultural center, UCCA, MOMA Broadway Cinemas, Culture Yard, Penghao Theatre and Modernista Bar.

All screenings will be free. Movies will play with French audio and Chinese or English subtitles.

This movie festival will continue on to 12 other Chinese cities including Guangzhou, Chengdu, Chongqing, Dalian, Hangzhou, Jinan,

Nanjing, Qingdao, Shanghai, Tianjin, Wuhan and Xi'an.

Literature

As the theme for this year's literary festival, the organizers selected 10 French words: atelie, bouquet, cachet, coup de foudre, equipe, protéger, savoir-faire, unique, vis-à-vis and voilà.

Activities, including an exhibition and three workshops, will be held at the French language departments of local colleges, the French Alliance and French Cultural Center in Beijing.

The famous French drama troupe Le Theatre de Lanternes is also holding an open rehearsal for Phedre. Group Impropekin is presenting an improv workshop.

Single certificates top business of marriage registry

The Marriage Registry Office of Shanghai issued more than 200,000 single certificates last year, surpassing its 139,000 marriage certificates.

Shanghai is not a rare case.

The number of single certificates has exploded in Hangzhou during the last seven years, making separation one of the top functions of the local Bureau of Civil Affairs.

A single certificate is issued to prove one's lack of marital status, but they can also be issued to divorced persons and those whose spouses have perished.

Lin Kewu, deputy chief of the Shanghai Marriage Administration Office under Bureau of Civil Affairs, said when the Marriage Registry Office first issued single certificates in 2004, there was little demand.

The boom may be due to the many new uses of single certificates. Single certificate have 58 uses, includes finding a spouse, getting a loan for graduate school, adoption and immigration.

With more people entering into fraudulent marriages, some dating agencies are requiring customers to submit a single certificate.

However, most of the people requesting certificates have some business with real estate. Some are applying for low-rent housing, a mortgage, a loan to purchase a home or to change their property certificate.



Marriage registries issue many single certificates.



Restrictions on housing sales have caused sham divorces.

CFP Photos

All of these require a single certificate.

Lin Kewu said the policy to restrict housing sales has

prompted many couples to get a sham divorce. He saw several that divorced and remarried twice within two months to

take advantage of the government's preferential home purchasing policies.

To avoid the sham divorces, Lin suggested that the policies need to require more detailed background checks. They should also examine the marriage itself, and require that couples wait six to 12 months before being eligible for preferential purchase.

Lin also suggested that the social security card be used as a certificate of one's marriage condition, as that is managed and accepted by several departments and can save time for applicants.

The single certificate is not without its limitations.

It only proves the party doesn't have any marriage registry record within the scope of the specific marriage registry office.

Loopholes are unlikely to be resolved in the near future. Until it is, the reliability of single certificates will depend on trust and honor.

That's worrisome, because the most recent survey found that Chinese trust in society has dropped to less than 60. More than 70 percent said they were highly suspicious of strangers.

Wang Junxiu, chief editor of the report, said the reason trust is being lost is that it is all too often abused.

(By Bao Chengrong)

Xi's 'fan club' a hit on Weibo

News about China's top leaders is no longer the exclusive domain of state media.

A personal Sina Weibo account has attracted wide attention with its timely first-hand coverage of Xi Jinping's official trips.

"Study Xi's Fan Club" released information about Xi's trip to Guangzhou and Shenzhen before the news could be reported by CCTV or Xinhua. During the leader's trip to Gansu Province, it tracked every detail of his activities and beat official media to releasing several unflattering photos that showed Xi napping on a bus.

The Weibo also posted rare photos of Xi with his family. The microblogger often refers



Zhang Hongming CFP Photo

to Xi as "Uncle Xi" and has given him the affectionate nickname "Pingping."

The Weibo account has gained more than 1 million followers within the last three months. Its popularity prompted many to question about the blogger's real identity.

Some suspected it was being maintained by someone close to Xi for propaganda, as the coverage style mirrored new journalism techniques.

Zhang Zhian, a new media expert at Sun Yat-sen University, said the account is not likely the root of ordinary netizens, but the Party Central Committee's General Office or Xinhua reporters.

The founder Zhang Hongming revealed his identity to The Associated Press on February 9 and claimed to

be a college dropout and migrant worker.

Zhang told AP that he is a genuine fan of China's new leader and is intent on narrowing the gap between him and the people. Zhang's initial idea was just to make an online following for Xi similar to what many foreign leaders have on Twitter.

Two days later he said he would close the account, but returned to post again the following day. Many suspect Zhang has the backing and blessing of the Communist Party.

Xi is not alone in his notoriety.

As many as 30 senior officials had Weibo accounts as of last July, up from 14 in 2011. This includes Chen

Mingming, vice governor of Guizhou Province, Wang Hui, head of the Beijing Information Office, and Cai Qi, the organization chief of Zhejiang Province.

Most post about work and current affairs.

Many netizens urged Xi to follow their examples and open his own account instead of relying on an anonymous fan club.

But Wang Zhengxu, an analyst at Nottingham University, said it is hard to imagine that the Communist Party chief would open his own microblog in the short term. The Party prefers to communicate to the public through more controlled means.

(By Bao Chengrong)

Blocked solar exports find use at home

By Zhao Hongyi

Last year, dozens of Chinese families and enterprises took up a new business: producing solar energy and selling it to the national grid.

This positive adoption of the technology could be good news for the country's green power policy and the diversification of its power sources.

But the new industry is not without its problems. There are few subsidies for green power generators and little monitoring of their quality and safety.

Sustainable development of the nation's green energy capacity will be one of the most challenging problems for leaders during the next five years.

Beijing's first station

On January 25, a domestic solar energy station was installed in a home owned by Ru Hai in Water & Time Villa in Northern Xiaoying Town, Shunyi District.

His solar panels were the first to be installed in parallel with the state grid.

Ru's family-use system is a non-silicon-wafer film battery and silicon-wafer battery combination able to store 3,060 kilowatt hours. It produces an excess 10 watt hours per day.

The energy his family does not use can be sold back to the national grid for 0.4 yuan per watt hour, a rate set by the National Development and Reform Commission. The panels bring Ru's family an extra 4 yuan each day.

Ru Hai installed the solar panels on the roof of his home, simplifying his application process to 30 days.

According to Beijing Electric Power Corporation, there are 25 pending applications for individual solar energy stations in the capital.

Although the government has set a uniform price of 0.48 yuan per kilowatt hour for energy consumption, the price does vary. In rural areas, it can cost as much as 1 yuan per kilowatt hour because of the branch lines needed to carry

electricity to remote areas.

Many cities are adopting a flexible pricing system to separate day and night use. Beijing adopted a ladder pricing system, charging 0.48 yuan per kilowatt hour for the first 240 kilowatt hours, 0.53 per kilowatt hour for between 241 and 400 kilowatt hours and 0.78 yuan per kilowatt hour above 401 kilowatt hours.

First in the country

Ru Hai is not the first person in China to install his own solar generator.

Xu Pengfei, China's first domestic solar energy users, said that his own small generator has helped him sell an excess 270 kilowatt hours of power to the national grid.

"When the weather is good, we can generate 8 kilowatt hours each day. We use 4 kilowatt hours and sell the rest," he said.

Xu spent 20,000 yuan to purchase and install the system two months ago after submitting his application to become an Individual Solar Energy Producer and Seller on October 26.

But the process of persuading his neighbors to let him install the panels was not easy.

Xu was required to explain his plan to 20 neighbors and obtain their signatures so he could use the



Ru Hai's solar panels are controlled by the home computer.



Solar panels on top Ru Hai's home

publicly owned roof of the residential apartment.

He finished his application process on December 3, and on December 21 he began selling power back to the State Grid.

His station has nine solar panels, all of which are silicon-wafer battery with an average annual electricity production of 2,600 kilowatt hours.

He sells back his spare electricity at 0.4469 yuan per watt and is paid by the State Grid Shandong Branch twice each year. The panels are expected to pay for themselves within 15 years.

Opposition and potential

The desperate need for green energy on the national grid is driving the government to accept and promote individual power production.

It's also a good way to make use of domestic solar panels, which are the victim of frequent trade barriers set by the

US and EU.

Last October 11, the US Ministry of Commerce decided to impose 34 to 47 percent revenge tax on Chinese-made solar panels after accusing manufacturers of being subsidized by the Chinese government to sell at less than the market price.

Following an anti-dumping investigation into Chinese-made solar cells last year, the EU started an investigation into Chinese-made solar energy glass and threatened an anti-dumping tariff higher than 100 percent.

Wind power collectors face the same obstacles in exporting their technology.

Last year, US President Barack Obama signed an order to force Sany, a wind turbine manufacturer, to abandon its project that was located near a US military base.

Sany filed a lawsuit to pursue the compensation, but the case is still awaiting trial.

In fact, China's solar energy production technology is very sophisticated, allowing domestic manufacturers to massively slash costs.

In 2010, China produced enough solar collectors to generate 10.67 gigawatts. By 2011, it was producing enough to generate 21.17 gigawatts.

Most of the cells are lined with silicon-based solar energy collectors that cost \$80 per kilogram in raw materials. The price of the finished product is \$20.

Seeking solutions

With many of the produced cells unable to be exported, the government is being forced to explore domestic use.

Although some experts advocate exploring developing markets, the returns are expected to be unsatisfying, said Ma Yue, a foreign trade expert from the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Many are expecting the government to subsidize individual solar power generation, especially since it has promised to offer subsidies for the wind power generation.

"I can't say for sure when it will enact such a policy," said Li Yueran, an expert from the China Power Research Institute, but there is a very good chance it will come eventually.

If the government raises the price of electricity to 1 yuan, Xu will make back his investment within eight years.

But many users remain worried about solar being a potential threat to the national energy grid, as well as the chance for energy theft, radiation and pollution.

While radiation is unlikely, Li did say solar panels can be noisy and the batteries have the same pollutive properties as other power cells used in mobile phone and cameras.



Many are waiting to see whether the government will subsidize solar panel purchases.

CFP Photo

Jiayuan founder dips hand in online English education

By Bao Chengrong

The booming online education industry in the US has attracted several Chinese entrepreneurs and investors. Recently the focus has been on Gong Haiyan, who resigned as CEO of Jiayuan, the largest online dating site in China, to set up an online English-learning platform called 91 Waijiao. Discussion is rampant about whether she can once again find success.

Wearing a red sweater and glasses, her hair tied in a ponytail, Gong Haiyan looks no different from an ordinary office employee.

But what sets her apart is her ambition. After building the online dating site Jiayuan into the market's largest, she took her reputation and wealth and decided to start a new venture in a completely different field.

The idea of 91 Waijiao sprung out of a difficult experience. Last year, as she was in the US introducing Jiayuan, Gong was embarrassed by her English language skills, which hindered her from communicating with foreign investors.

She returned and studied merely less than 20 of the overall 100 offline English curriculums before giving up.

"It's really troublesome to go out and study," she said. "I realized that English learners would be more likely to continue with online study because it saves time and money."

91 Waijiao offers face-to-face online video classes for Chinese users to practice their spoken English with native speakers. Regardless of location, users have the freedom to arrange their study time and choose different teachers.

"The traditional way of watching recorded online videos lacks interaction. Without interaction, the learning process can be quite boring and inefficient," she said.

Gong delivered a team to search for teachers in the US. Among the roughly 3,000 teachers at 91 Waijiao, 90 percent of them have teaching certificates or relevant teaching experience, and the rest are talented communicators from various industries.

"I think users may also want to learn something else besides language," Gong said. "For instance, a marketer may want to communicate with a teacher who also comes from a marketing background."



Gong Haiyan

Gong once tried to recruit foreigners from her residential district, the earliest training center for about 1,000 foreigners in Beijing, but failed to get even one.

She said managers of foreign enterprises and embassy officials are unwilling to teach English in their leisure time. Even full-time foreign housewives in Beijing don't want to get involved because they don't want to sacrifice family time for money.

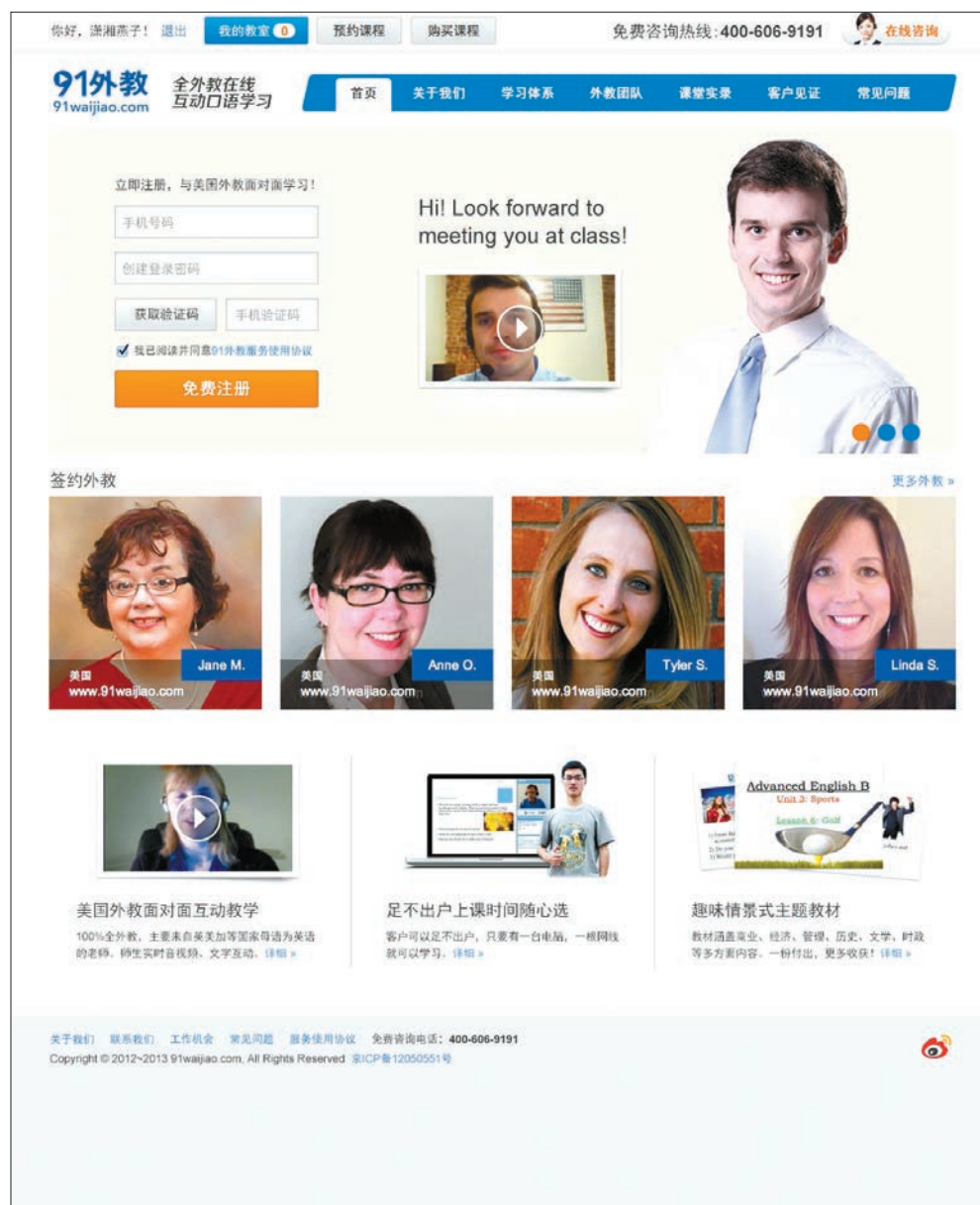
The time difference between teachers and students is also tricky, so Gong said she'd try to pursue teachers in China or Australia.

The target customers span every demographic, from primary school students to office workers to managers.

Before setting up the website, Gong conducted a survey on what Chinese expect to obtain through learning English. She found quite a few of them want to use the language to find a better job or broaden their views.

"Many Chinese entrepreneurs have taken advantage of language skills," she said. "They can quickly learn from the latest innovations in the US and imitate them."

However, Gong said the fact is people can't really



91 Waijiao

Photos provided by Gong Haiyan

learn practical English for daily communication through Chinese teachers, since they spend most of their time on grammar.

Gong would know. She spent 13 years learning English in school and even got high scores on her college entrance exam, but her spoken English ability remained low.

In addition, transportation to classes remains a problem. Gong learned that many students give up after completing just 30 percent of a curriculum.

Meanwhile, since teachers are in limited supply, there isn't much variety in teaching styles.

Gong said online education has been quite popular

abroad. In Australia, children take video classes at home instead of going to kindergarten. In the US, students can earn real diplomas after finishing video-based curriculums.

But the domestic online education industry remains undeveloped. Many investors have expressed interest, while few are really pursuing it.

Still, Gong sees hope.

Only one other company, 51 Talk, utilizes the same amount of face-to-face video curriculums as 91 Waijiao.

Gong said interactive video classes requires high technology. Half of her team members specialize in developing online video meeting products. To

ensure the customer experience, teachers with low bandwidths are encouraged to upgrade.

The big challenge is recruiting more customers. Gong said nearly 100 people have registered, but not many have purchased curriculums. Even though 3,000 teachers are recruited, only 120 of them have actually had classes on the website.

"This second undertaking of mine, being in the spotlight, has created more pressure," Gong said. "But I know I've succeeded before, and I tend to refuse to fail."

Gong said she plans to hire 30 more employees, particularly experts of spoken English.

“I was dying to know what we could do to create happiness for ourselves”

Headhunters for love

By Chen Nan

The documentary *Let's Fall in Love* captures couples at various stages of their relationship, all brought together by matchmaker Hellen Chen, who coaches her compatible single clients in finding a partner and managing a lasting relationship.

It's about love – not the passionate kind, but love as it's agonizing, messy and practical. The film takes a full-frontal look at what can happen to couples after that gooey “honeymoon phase” – the struggles, disappointments and downright awkward moments. It's a riveting look at couples dealing with age-old concerns found in any relationship.



Tragicomic

Taiwanese director Wu Wuna tackles a subject matter that seems mundane – marriage – but does so through the professional life of Hellen Chen, who specializes in nudging difficult bachelors and bachelorettes to the altar.

Taiwan leads Asia in divorce, with 50 percent of marriages falling apart, so there's plenty of work for an expert like Chen.

Chen boasts daring and unorthodox approaches. Instead of working with people who actively seek marriage, she works the young who don't care about getting married, then see them through thick and thin until the day they finally say “I do.”

The stories of real-life couples in Chen's book, *The Matchmaker of the Century*, caught award-winning filmmaker Wu's attention.

Wu followed Chen to capture the maverick in action. Her intimate lenses grab tales of love and arguments, witness unspoken words outside marriage and happiness in the quibbling of lovers.

First is Irene, a professional who pursues love a decade after her first marriage's failure. She was at loss and didn't how to begin a relationship.

But her plight caught Chen's attention, and she solved her problems by dispelling Irene's insecurities. The straight-to-the-camera interviews exposed veterans of the relationship situations and offered advice for the chronically lovelorn.

For Vivian and Jason, love came at first sight, but the two couldn't stop screaming everyday. Through Chen's consulting, they began to learn how to reach constructive consensus and embrace each other's imperfections.

Then there is the story of Cube, a 28-year-old “zhai nan,” or homebody, who fell in love with CC, who was a 40-year-old maid. Cube's candor in front



Matchmaker Hellen Chen



Director Wu Wuna

of the camera when he describes how his desire exploded and enjoy warm-hearted communication with a lady.

“But that was a moving and also a shocking moment, since he genuinely describes his true and pure feeling of love,” Wu said.

Wu doesn't try to make big points or explore deep emotions. From openly bickering about everyday annoyances and deeper problems to finding solutions for discrepancies, “I just try to urge viewers to think outside the box and see things from different perspectives,” Wu said.

The highlight of each part comes



Photos provided by Wu Wuna

when Chen, a keenly perceptive matchmaker with an incisive mind, delivers trenchant remarks with regard to a contestant's personality or offers much-wanted or needed advice.

Personal growth diary

Wu has since cemented her position as one Taiwan's famous independent directors, whose films take on unique feminine sensibilities and keenness. Wu's films have been shown at various international film festivals, including Prix Regards Neufs of 2005 Visions du Reel – Nyon for her film *Farewell 1999*.

Although its narration is not dramatic, *Let's Fall in Love* amounts to a heartwarming story about matrimony and mixes a sense of humor with personal intimacy and empathy, which is underscored when the director puts herself in the firing line as she asks Chen to help her find a partner.

In a way, the film is a self-help manual loaded with humor.

“Chen's tenacity in restoring hopes to the discouraged is very impressive,” said Wu, who was herself in a relationship mess before meeting Chen.

The shooting sprung from the direc-

tor's sense of urgency. Being an intellectually and independent woman who yearns for love but is unable to have a stable relationship, Wu found herself heartbroken after a breakup at the age of 30, and the seven wedding invitations she received didn't help to alleviate the pain.

Meanwhile, Wu saw her best friend, Yifan, fall in love and marry just in the span of five months, which forced her to ask if she had missed so many chances.

Then she met Hellen Chen, who had successfully married 20 couples over the past five years.

“I was dying to know what we could do to create happiness for ourselves,” Wu said.

So she took up her cameras and began shooting.

Unlike most documentary filmmakers who keep their distance, Wu shared her own painful past as transparently as she relays the stories of others.

“By inserting myself into the process, I bring an additional layer of immediacy to the subject matter and blur the lines between filmmaker and subject,” she said. She added: “Shooting helped me clear up my own heartbreaks.”

Food after the holidays

By Annie Wei

Chinese New Year is over and people are back to work, but many still miss their holiday food from other cities – yummy and wallet-friendly. Satisfy your itch at these places in Beijing.



Hunan people like marinated peppers.



Fried vegetables and smoked meat

Hunan flavors

Many people like Hunan cuisine, which is spicy and delicious. Nandongting is one of our favorites.

We like its layuwei (35 yuan), deep-fried, smoked fish tails. Smoked meat is characteristic of Hunan food as every family smokes its own fish, pork, chicken, duck and even tofu.

There are quite a few hotpot dishes, especially dry wok dishes like spicy duck or chicken (58 yuan), bite-sized duck or chicken pieces sizzled in a light gravy seasoned with ginger, cassia bark, star anise, soy sauce and rice wine.

We like its home-style dishes such as nongjiaxiaochaorou (35 yuan), farm-style pork with peppers, a popular dish at all Hunan restaurants; turnip and pork shank bone soup (58 yuan), with the turnip and bone stewed long enough to give out a delicious sweet flavor; and douci chaojidan (38 yuan), fried fermented beans with eggs, with the fermented beans giving off a special flavor.

For vegetables, we liked the fried cucumber and perilla (28 yuan). Hunan people use a lot of perilla with vegetables, sometimes cooking it in soup fish or frying it with vegetables, a nice combination.

The restaurant's seasonal vegetables ship from Hunan daily.

Nandongting

Where: 2-4 Weibaishu Jie, Bei Li, Xicheng District

Open: 10 am – 9:30 pm

Tel: 6301 8601

Vegetarian restaurants

Families usually prepare more meat than vegetables during Chinese New Year holidays. It's necessary to balance your diet.

Lily Vegetarian

As one of the unpretentious vegetarian restaurants in town, dishes we recommend include suchang



Asparagus and mushrooms

(61 yuan), sausage made of tofu; nanguageng (93 yuan), pumpkin soup; shui-zhuyu (35 yuan), the Sichuan-style spicy boiled tofu-made fish; kaoya (13 yuan per serving), roasted "duck"; and satay hotpot (24 yuan).

Lily Vegetarian has two outlets.

Where: 23 Caoyuan Hutong, BeiXiaojie, Dongzhimen, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6405 2082

Where: Inside Baijiaotong Xiaoqu, Wenquan Town, Haidian District

Open: 10 am – 9 pm

Tel: 6248 9098

Classic Hunan dish – two kinds of peppers and fish head

Authentic Guilin rice noodles at a good price

Unlike most Guilin mifen eateries on every street, the one hidden in Shifouying Jiancai Cheng, the home decoration market, is the real deal.

Run by a Guilin family, the eatery makes each serving (starting from 12 yuan) as they would back home: quickly boiling the noodles over a big fire to retain chewiness, then placing them in a long-stewed soup, adding fermented bamboo shoots, fried peanuts, chopped shallots, water spinach and fuzu.

Fuzu, dried bean milk cream in tight rolls, are among the favorite ingredients of people from Guangxi. You can buy them (10 yuan per bag) from local supermarkets to fry with a variety of vegetables. It absorbs the flavors and becomes delicious. Just remember to soak it in cold water for an hour and a half to soften it before use.

The eatery offers delivery within the neighborhood. If you live a bit farther away, say Tuanjiehu, they deliver if the order exceeds 100 yuan.

Guilin Mifen

Where: Inside Shifouying Jiancaicheng, 1 Shilibao, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 9 pm

Tel: 13031087366



Guilin rice noodle
CFP Photos

Tian-chu Miaoxiang

Apart from extensive Chinese dishes, it also offers vegetarian pizza, "steak" and pasta made of tofu, gluten and mushrooms.

Where: 1 F, Chuangye Dasha, east gate of Tsinghua University, Haidian District

Open: 11 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6279 778

Jingsisu Shifang

A simple restaurant tucked in a hutong. It offers simple dishes at low prices.

Where: 18 Dafosi Dong Jie, Dongcheng District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 6400 8941

Global fashion bloggers' ideas for spring



Chinese singer and songwriter Tian Yuan



Swiss blogger Kay Ture



Italian blogger Chiara Ferragni



Italian model and blogger Eleonora Carisi

By Annie Wei

Spring has arrived. Feel the urge to buy something for the new season but unsure about what inspires you? A fashion event held by Luisaviaroma.com might provide some ideas.

Every year, this high-end fashion boutique invites fashion bloggers from around the world to share their tastes and interact with fans.

These popular bloggers include Filipino Bryan Boy (bryanboy.com), who likes adding feminine touches to his daily wear; Italian Chiara Ferragni (theblondesalad.com) with her sweet and chic look; and other less known ones from California, Russia and China.

Bloggers used the latest items from many international brands to create looks for spring and summer. Here are some trend you don't want to miss:

Blazers: Chinese singer and songwriter Tian Yuan wears a blue blazer. Blazers are still the most practical items in recent years. They are suitable all year round: on warm days, you might need one in places with strong air-conditioning; on cold days, you can wear it underneath a fur coat.

Bold colors: We like French designer, writer and stylist Gala Gonzalez's look of vibrancy and youth. Her pick of a lace embroidery and white long dress is suitable for most women during summertime. We also like her fresh yellow top paired with forest green pants and a rose red bag.

Shining trench coat: Trench coats are always practical in spring and fall when the weather is chilly and windy in the morning and night. Unlike Burberry Prorsum's classic checker pattern, this trench adopts new materials to look colorful and shiny. But to look good, it's better to have a pale skin color like blogger Chiara Ferragni.

Clutch: Colorful patterns and clutch remain popular items for 2013.

Pink: Italian model and blogger Eleonora Carisi is known for her trendsetting skills. A simple piece of pink Valentino dress makes her cute and lovely. Her blog, joujouvilleroy.com, is one of the top 50 fashion blogs in Italy.

Gold: Many people might think bling and gold are so two years ago. It's not true – if you dress it up right like Swiss blogger Kay Ture.



French blogger Gala Gonzalez

Photos provided by Luisaviaroma.com